

REMARKS

By way of this preliminary amendment, claims 6, 8, 9, 11, 15, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 27, 28, 29, 31, 35, 37 and 39 have been amended to remove multiple dependencies. It is respectfully submitted that all pending claims are in condition for allowance and early notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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June 7, 2001

502857

**MARKED-UP VERSION
OF AMENDED CLAIMS**

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6. (Amended) A breathable article according to [any preceding claim 1, wherein the spacer members project by a distance which is substantially the same across the relevant major face of the sheet, so that the article conforms in use to the shape of the person or animal or the surface.

8. (Amended) A breathable article according to [any one of the preceding claims] claim 1, wherein the spacer members are discontinuous.

9. (Amended) A breathable article according to [any one of claims 1 to 7] claim 1, wherein the spacer members are continuous.

11. (Amended) A breathable article according to claim 9 [or 10], wherein the spacer members comprise a network of ribs on the respective side or sides of the sheet.

15. (Amended) A breathable article according to [any preceding claim] claim 1, wherein the sheet further includes a hollow depression or chamber provided in the first major face of the sheet in the region of each perforation.

17. (Amended) A breathable article according to claim 15 [or 16], wherein at least one of the depressions or chambers is associated with more than one perforation.

18. (Amended) A breathable article according to [any one of claims 15 to 17] claim 15, wherein the second major face of the sheet is provided with a dome projection in the region of each perforation, each dome projection corresponding with a hollow depression or chamber of the first major face of the sheet.

19. (Amended) A breathable article according to [any one of the preceding claims] claim 1, when permanently or releasable affixed to the surface.

20. (Amended) A breathable article according to [any one of the preceding claims] claim 1, being a cushioning or lining article for locating between a person or animal and a surface selected from the surfaces of apparel and clothing and portions thereof, seats and portions thereof, wheelchairs and portions thereof, headwear, footwear, body protectors, body armour, sports shields, bedding, upholstery coverings, orthopaedic casts, orthopaedic supports, orthopaedic hard braces, and other articles against which the body of the person or animal, or a portion thereof, can be compressed in use.

21. (Amended) A breathable article according to [any one of claims 1 to 19] claim 1, being a medical or veterinary dressing.

27. (Amended) A breathable fabric according to [any one of claims 22 to 26] claim 22, wherein the spacer members project by a distance which is substantially the same across the relevant major face of the sheet.

28. (Amended) A breathable fabric according to [any one of claims 22 to 27] claim 22, wherein the spacer members are discontinuous.

29. (Amended) A breathable fabric according to [any one of claims 22 to 27] claim 22, wherein the spacer members are continuous.

31. (Amended) A breathable fabric according to claim 29 [or 30], wherein the spacer members comprise a network of ribs on the respective side or sides of the sheet.

35. (Amended) A breathable fabric according to [any one of claims 22 to 34] claim 22, wherein the sheet further includes a hollow depression or chamber provided in the first major face of the sheet in the region of each perforation.

37. (Amended) A breathable fabric according to claim 35 [or 36], wherein at least one of the depressions or chambers is associated with more than one perforation.

38. (Amended) A breathable fabric according to [any one of claims 35 to 37] claim 35, wherein the second major face of the sheet is provided with a dome projection in the region of each perforation, each dome projection corresponding with a hollow depression or chamber of the first major face of the sheet.